

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TANANA 01259 041415Z

65

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 /030 W

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P 041345Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8348

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 1259

FOR AMBASSADORS HABIB AND SCHAUFLE

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PSDC

SUBJ: CONDOLENCE MESSAGE ON PRIME MINISTER DEATH

REF: STATE 192197

I AM DISMAYED AND EVEN OFFENDED BY DECISION THAT NO WHITE HOUSE MESSAGE WILL BE SENT ON OCCASION OF DEATHS OF PRIME MINISTER RAKOTOMALALA, MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT RAJAONAH AND ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF RAKOTONIRAINY. ALTHOUGH I AM NOT SURE WHAT DEPARTMENT MEANT BY "NATURE OF OCCASION" (REFTEL), I CERTAINLY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT US-MALAGASY RELATIONS ARE NOT GOOD AND I DO NOT WISH TO MINIMIZE IMPORTANCE OF SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO FOREIGN MINISTER.

PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT, WHILE NOT OUTWARDLY IN OUR CAMP, BOTH EXPRESSED TO ME THAT THEY WERE NOT HAPPY WITH HOW RATSIRAKA HAS POISONED RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. CHIEF OF STAFF RAKOTONIRAINY WAS, IN PARTICULAR, VERY PARTIAL TO US INTERESTS AND, ALONG WITH EVERY OTHER SENIOR MALAGASY MILITARY OFFICER, SOUGHT TO PREVENT RATSIRAKA FROM MOVING TOO FAR TOWARD SOVIETS. TWO THINGS SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND: (A) RATSIRAKA NEEDS SUPPORT OF MILITARY IN ORDER TO STAY IN POWER, AND (B) OUR RELATIONS HERE WOULD BE IN FAR WORSE SHAPE IF THESE KIND OF PEOPLE WERE NOT IN THE GOVERNMENT.

IT APPEARS THAT EVERY MAJOR CHIEF OF STATE HAS SENT
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PAGE 02 TANANA 01259 041415Z

CONDOLENCE MESSAGE, EVEN FRENCH WHO HAVE A LOT MORE TO

COMPLAIN ABOUT HERE THAN WE DO. SINCE THIS OMISSION ON
OUR PART WOULD OFFEND OUR FRIENDS HERE, I URGE WASHINGTON
TO RECONSIDER AND AT LEAST SEND MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY TO
FAMILIES OF THE DECEASED. SHEINBAUM

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Message Attributes

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